

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 26 have been examined. Claims 1 – 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 and 112 as not being supported by tangible or concrete results; Claims 21 – 26 have been allowed.

Applicants appreciate the indicated allowance of Claims 21 – 26. Independent Claims 1 and 17 have been amended to recite that the methods are performed by a computer system having an input device, a processor, and a display device. They have further been amended to recite that a distribution of results is displayed for a user on the display device, thereby providing a useful, concrete, and tangible result. This is similar to a limitation that was previously presented in dependent Claim 2, but is grounded in providing a concrete and tangible result by additionally requiring display on a display device. In view of such amendments, it is respectfully believed that the claims now conform with the Office's Examination Guidelines for Computer-Related Inventions as set forth in MPEP 2106, being both statutory under §101 and enabled under §112, ¶1.

Appl. No. 10/690,481
Amdt. dated April 4, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 13, 2006

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick M. Boucher
Reg. No. 44,037

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 303-571-4000
Fax: 415-576-0300
PMB:pmb
60729385 v1